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18 August 1976

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NOTE FOR : DCI

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In absence, I asked OCI to check documentation of Senator Scott's claim of PRC interest in trade relations with Taiwan.

There is no reference to Peking's desire for negotiations with Taipei in State's comprehensive reporting on Senator Scott's talks with Chiao Kuan-hua and Chang Chun-chiao. Past Chinese attempts to encourage contacts between Taiwan and the mainland have been turned aside by Taipei. If the subject was raised while Senator Scott was in China, it seems likely that it was in a negative, historical sense, e.g., "We have tried our best to open contacts with Taipei in the hope that they would lead to negotiations on Taiwan, but the Nationalists have rejected every overture." Senator Scott implies this when he says that Taipei should "avoid open warfare" by playing a "positive role" in reaching a peaceful solution on the Taiwan matter.



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